

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OFA-01 DLOS-04 ACDA-05 AGR-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 IO-11 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 EURE-00 /118 W
----- 034098

R 091232Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5928

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

CNO WASHDC

SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USUN NEW YORK 0457

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS PFOR IC UK NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: TEXTS OF UK AND GOI

PROTESTS ON JAN 7TH INCIDENT

REF: REYKJAVIK 0025 (DTG 071550Z JAN 76)

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1. FOLLOWING ARE THE ENGLISH TEXTS OF THE SIMULTANEOUS UK-GOI

PROTESTS MADE JAN 8 ON THE RAMMING INCIDENT OF JAN 7 (REFTEL)
WHEREIN EACH BLAMES THE OTHER. TEXTS HAVE NOT BEEN MADE PUBLIC.

2. ICELAND'S PROTEST

BEGIN QUOTE:

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE
BRITISH EMBASSY AND HAS THE HONOUR TO REFER TO THE SERIOUS
INCIDENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 7 JANUARY.

FIRSTLY, WHEN THE BRITISH NAVAL FIGATE ANDROMEDA RAMMED THE
ICELANDIC COAST GUARD VESSEL THOR ON THE STARBOARD SIDE 30
NAUTICAL MILES EAST OF BJARNAREY. THE ANDROMEDA COMMENCED HER
ATTACKS AT 11:30 ADVANCING ON THE THOR WITH A 40 DEGREE DIRECTION
ON HER BOW FORCING THE THOR TO TAKE EVASIVE ACTION. AT 13:14 THE
THOR PASSED BY THE TRAWLER ROSE RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS AT THAT
TIME STEAMING. THE WARSHIP THEN PASSED BETWEEN THE TWO SHIPS AT
A GREAT SPEED CAUSING THE COAST GUARD VESSEL TO TURN TO STARBOARD.
THE THOR CONTINUED THE TURN TO REACH A POSITION AFT OF THE
WARSHIP THUS REGAINING HER INITIAL COURSE. BEFORE REACHING
THAT COURSE THE WARSHIP ADVANCED AT A GREAT SPEED FROM A SHARP
ANGLE AIMING AT THE BOW OF THE COAST GUARD VESSEL WHICH
IMMEDIATELY STRAIGHTENED HER COURSE, AND WHEN THE ANDROMEDA
STEAMED IN FRONT OF THE THOR THE LATTER SLOWED DOWN AND TURNED
TO STARBOARD, THIS TURN WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY SIGNED BY THE
SHIPS SIREN. IF THE WARSHIP HAD KEPT HER COURSE THE SHIPS WOULD
NOT HAVE COLLIDED BUT SHE SUDDENLY MADE A SHARP TURN TO STARBOARD
THUS THROWING THE PORT SIDE OF THE AFTER REGION VIOLENTLY AGAINST
THE BOW OF THE THOR.

SECONDLY, WHEN THE NAVAL FRIGATE NAIAD REPEATEDLY TRIED TO RAM THE
COAST GUARD VESSEL TYR. THE TYR THEN WAS LOCATED 40 NAUTICAL MILES
EAST OF GLETTINGANES, AND PROCEEDING ON A DIRECT COURSE AT THE STEADY
SPEED OF ABOUT 12 KNOTS. THE NAIAD TWICE CROSSED THE BOW OF THE
COAST GUARD VESSEL AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 200-250 METERS, AND
THEN AGAIN AND AGAIN APPROACHED THE TYR FROM THE REAR AT A VERY
CLOSE RANGE. THE TYR MAINTAINED HER COURSE. THE NAIAD THEN SUDDENLY,
AT HIGH SPEED CAME SO CLOSE TO THE TYR THAT ONLY A FOOT OR TWO
SEPARATED THE SHIPS. IT WAS ONLY WITH THE SKILL OF THE COMMANDER
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OF THE TYR THAT THE RAMMING WAS AVOIDED.

THE MINISTRY PROTSTS STRONGLY AGAINST THIS IRRESPONSIBLE
PRACTICE BY THE BRITISH WARSHIPS OF ATTACKING ICELANDIC COAST
GUARD VESSELS WHILE THEY ARE CARRYING OUT THEIR LAWFUL DUTIES AND
THUS PLACING THE LIVES OF THEIR CREWS IN GRAVE DANGER.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ICELAND RESERVES ITS RIGHT TO CLAIM REPARATION

FOR DAMAGES CAUSED DURING THE INCIDENT.

THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE BRITISH EMBASSY THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDRATION. END QUOTE.

3. UK'S PROTEST

BEGIN QUOTE:

HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S EMBASSY PRESENT THEIR COMPLIMENTS TO THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND HAVE THE HONOUR TO DELIVER ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT A STRONG PROTEST AGAINST THE ACTIONS OF THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD VESSEL THOR ON 7 JANUARY IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES DESCRIBED BELOW.

WHEN HMS ANDROMEDA WAS ON A STEADY COURSE AND SPEED AT 1220 HOURS THE ICELANDIC COAST GUARD VESSEL THOR SUDDENLY ALTERED COURSE VIOLENTLY TO STARBOARD, TURNING IN HARD ON ANDROMEDA, AND DELIBERATELY RAMMED ANDROMEDA'S PORT QUARTER WITH HER STARBOARD BOW. ANDROMEDA SUFFERED DAMAGE TO GUARDRAILS AND THE AFT END PORT FLIGHT DECK NETS. HAD THOR'S IMPACT NOT BEEN LARGELY TAKEN BY ANDROMEDA'S FAIRLEAD (A REINFORCED BRACKET THROUGH WHICH BERTHING HAWSERS PASS) ANDROMEDA'S PORT SIDE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN SEVERELY DAMAGED. THIS ATTACK ON ANDROMEDA WAS CARRIED OUT WITHOUT REGARD FOR LIFE OR THE BASIC RULES ABOUT THE NAVIGATION OF VESSELS.

EARLIER, ANDROMEDA AND THOR WERE MANOEUVRING AT 20 KNOTS TO PASS THE BRITISH TRAWLER ROSS RESOLUTION CLOSE ON ANDROMEDA'S AND THOR'S PORT SIDE. AT APPROXIMATELY 1213 HOURS, THOR DELIBERATELY TURNED TO PORT, ATTEMPTING TO FORCE A COLLISION BETWEEN ANDROMEDA AND ROSS RESOLUTION. A COLLISION WAS ONLY AVERTED BY PROMPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVASIVE ACTION ON ANDROMEDA'S PART.

THE EMBASSY AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS THE ASSURANCES OF THEIR HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. END QUOTE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, ALLIANCE, FISHING DISPUTES, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, FISHING BOATS, NAVAL SHIPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976REYKJA00038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-0861
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760171/aaaacblbm.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 REYKJAVIK 25
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JAN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JAN 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <15 APR 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: TEXTS OF UK AND GOI PROTESTS ON JAN 7TH INCIDENT
TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006